

## [A Missionary Meeting]

Dup

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Emanuel Verschleiser

ADDRESS 1419 Jessup Ave. New York City

DATE January [?], 1939

SUBJECT A MISSIONARY MEETING.

1. Date and time of interview
2. Place of interview
3. Name and address of informant BY E. VERSCHLEISER, STAFF-WRITER
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FOLKLORE

## Library of Congress

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Emanuel Verschleiser

ADDRESS 1419 Jessup Ave. New York City

DATE January 9, 1939

SUBJECT A MISSIONARY MEETING

They were standing on a corner of a busy East side Street surrounded by a bunch of gaping kids. they had finished singing and the only trumpeteer, a small fattish fellow, was wiping the sweat from his face. They were standing now modestly with lowered eyes each waiting his turn to testify for the Lord. If there was dismay in their hearts that their audience was composed of seven or eight youngsters and because of the cynical or angry looks of the grown ups who stopped for a while, they didn't show it. Their leader: a mild mannered man with a pasty face and reddish eyes stepped forward and began preaching, without looking at the faces of his young listeners (but above them) and with steadily mounting fervor.

The Jews are passing thru days of terrible trials. The whole world, the whole civilized world, is shaken with horror at the brutalities this madman Hitler has brought upon the children of Israel, God's chosen people. Yes, they are God's chosen people ! ! ! Thur them He spoke to mankind. The Holy Books were given to the Jewish people and mankind received them from them. In the Holy Books the prophets announced the coming of Messiah but the Jews turned a deaf ear to their own prophets who spoke what God told

## Library of Congress

them to speak. The prophet Jeremiah was thrown in a deep well to die there of hunger and thirst but God saved him.

2

The prophet Isaih said: "He will be born of a virgin and his name will be "Immanuel" which means in Hebrew: God is with us... And he will bring justice and peace upon earth. And a sheep and a wolf will graze peacefully on the same meadow and the swords will be made over into ploughs... When Jesus came to sacrifice his blood for mankind the Jew refused to accept him and for this he suffered and suffers. My friends (with out-stretched arms) Jesus said: Come unto me thou heavily laden, come unto me you all who suffer and I will give you peace and eternal bliss. The soul which doesn't know the Lord is dark and despairing but when the soul sees the light it becomes full of joy... You will hear later the testimony of people who themselves experienced the miracle of faith... You will hear from their own mouths what sweet Jesus did for them... Once you take him to your heart, once you open your soul to him, you know no fear...you are newly born".....

The man continued in this vein for a good while and then stepped aside and said to a baldish, shabbily dressed man standing near him: Brother, will you give your testimony? The baldish man who looked as if he had spent many a night in a Bowery flop house, began shyly with a hardly audible voice: "I lived in sin. I didn't know the Lord. I hated Jews. I was going down and down. I made lots of money but I spent it all on drink. And then I saw the light. I came to know Jesus, our Lord. I began a new life. Jesus brings you new life. I became like a new born child. All my sins were washed away. I know that the eternal life waits for me. Jews are God's chosen people. Jesus was a Jew. Why should the Jewish people not recognize him? Read your Bible and you will see the light. You will feel the new life... Come to Jesus... He rejoices in every soul... Don't deny him. He is calling you..."

Sister Mary, a grayish, dignified looking woman with reddish large hands, gave her testimony in a tearful voice.

## Library of Congress

"I want to testify, I want you should come to know the Lord and find 3 peace and happiness... The children of Israel have suffered much but when they will accept Jesus they will know happiness and peace... Listen to me... I was a rich woman. I had a nice home and good children... But the children left me and my husband died and I was near despair... I wanted to die... My heart was black... I wanted to die... My heart was black... I wanted to commit a great sin... I wanted to make an end of my life... But our Lord Jesus in his mercy came and saved me. He wants to save you too... Yes he wants to save you too..."

At this stage of the proceedings I left.....